

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I just thought that it would be apropos for us to take a look at what the accomplishments of this particular Congress and the changes in the world are bringing to the American people. Today I hope that those people who are reading these remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and those people who are watching on C-SPAN recognize that over the past 2 years we have indeed seen a revolution in Washington, DC.

The word "revolution" really means a turnaround. It means not necessarily that great strides have taken place going in one direction or the other but, instead, that the direction has changed. Over these last 2 years, we have changed the direction of Government in the United States of America. I am very proud to have been part of NEWT GINGRICH's team, the new team in the House of Representatives, and what we have done to try to bring control to the uncontrolled increase in taxation and spending that threatened the very well-being of the American people. We have also come to grips with other issues that in the past have been unattended when the other party controlled the House of Representatives.

One of the issues that is of most concern to me, Mr. Speaker, and of most concern to Californians is the flood of immigration, especially illegal immigration, that is flowing into California that is destroying some of our basic institutions and our social infrastructure.

Today in California, many Americans who have spent their entire life paying their taxes, living honestly, trying to raise their family, trying to be good citizens in their community, are finding that the social infrastructure that they have come to rely upon is being destroyed because people from other countries are coming to our State illegally and flooding into the schools, into our hospitals, they are crowding our jails and preventing the judicial system from functioning and the other social services systems from functioning as they were set up.

For the first time Congress has come to grips with this problem. I am very proud that although the President of the United States, who claimed that he was going to try to do everything he could to help us with this flood of immigration, that the President of the United States instead did everything he could to drag his feet and to prevent us from passing a meaningful immigration bill, but despite this, we were able to pass an immigration bill that turned the country around.

There is still very much to do, and next year we will accomplish more on the issue of immigration reform. But we can be proud that instead of aiming at policies that made the situation worse, we have now turned this Government toward solving the problem and confronting the challenge to the American people.

One area of concern to me, and I believe that our people should be alerted to this, is that this year this administration decided to speed up the process of naturalization of people who are in this country legally. However, many of those people who have been sworn in and become citizens of the United States were people who entered the United States illegally and were granted amnesty back in 1986. What we have had in the last year is a speedup of the naturalization process so that 1.3 million legal immigrants now have basically become citizens. That is three times the number that were naturalized just 2 years ago.

Of that 1.3 million, this administration was in such a rush to grant them citizenship that thousands upon thousands of individuals who should have been screened out because they were convicted felons have been granted U.S. citizenship and turned loose among us.

This cannot be tolerated. I would hope that the American people note who is trying to solve the problem and who is not trying to solve the problem, who is trying to come to grips with the ever increasing load of taxation and spending that we have seen from Washington, who is trying could to come to grips with this threat of a massive flood of illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have served in this Congress, a Congress that has at last come to grips with some of these problems and challenges to our country's well-being.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I have enjoyed serving here in this Congress with you. Let me say that this session, the first in 40 years with conservatives in control, we made many fundamental changes. We did end the era of big government and ushered in the Information Age in government, the age of less government, but more responsive government. This is a great institution, the U.S. Congress. It is here that the people's will is carried out, maybe not always with rushing speed, but it is certainly carried out, heard and eventually carried out.

The greatest honor that I have had bestowed on me has come from the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Wisconsin, who have elected me nine times to this U.S. House of Representatives, and for that I thank them. This is a wonderful institution, wonderful people to serve with, and as I take my leave today, I just want all of my colleagues to know how much I have appreciated serving in this body, and I hope to see them often, and I know that they will carry on in the great traditions that this Congress has served the American people for over 200 years.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to comment on a couple of things that have been said over the course of the past few days. First of all, I want to comment on the ridiculous and intemperate remarks made by Governor Bush of Texas with regard to the Yankees and Bronx, NY, which I am proud to represent.

When asked if he would be coming to Yankee Stadium to see the Yankees play, he made a remark about if he came he would have to carry his gun. I think that that is a remark that ill behooves a Governor of a great State and, quite frankly, if Governor Bush had cared as much about taking guns out of the hands of criminals and perhaps controlling, having some kind of gun control instead of signing legislation that allows people to carry concealed weapons, perhaps the streets would be safer for all of us.

I would invite him to come to the Bronx, where crime has dropped tremendously; in fact, as the mayor of New York, who is a Republican, has pointed out, that New York City has led the way. There has been a reduction in crime across the country. I think President Clinton deserves credit, Congress deserves credit, and local officials deserve credit. But New York City has led the way in the drop in crime, and so has Bronx, NY. And so I just think that Governors ought to think about what they say before they go shooting their mouths off and making intemperate remarks.

I also wanted to comment on some of the remarks made by Senator Dole the past couple of days where he has been very critical of President Clinton's foreign policy. I want to say that I think that the President, certainly over the past couple of years, has shown great leadership in terms of foreign policy. One only needs to look around the world.

One needs to look at Bosnia, where ethnic cleansing was going along until the United States stepped in firmly and stopped it. Has everything been a 100 percent success? Nothing is 100 percent success, but we know under President Clinton's leadership we have ended most of the killing in Bosnia and the United States has shown leadership and only the United States can show that type of leadership.

In the Middle East, we saw the accords signed and we saw a potential unraveling of the peace accords in the